



**November 19, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

## **Stewardship / Thanksgiving Sunday**

To make disciples for Jesus Christ . . .

- . . . we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer, study and fellowship
- . . . we **Equip** the people of God with a faith that works in real life
- . . . we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor ..... Bruce Thorsen  
Music Director ..... Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist ..... Bruce Williams  
Administrative Assistant ..... Connie Denbrock  
Youth & Education Director ..... Pam Williams  
Sound Technicians ..... Raymond Herek  
Church email ..... [faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website ..... [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page ..... [facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)  
WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Today we celebrate Stewardship/Thanksgiving Sunday. Our lessons today remind us about being thankful for all that God has given us to take care of. The Psalm literally tells us not to be quiet about our thankfulness. It reminds us that God created us and that we belong to God. We are called to worship and praise God with every part of our lives.

## **PRELUDE**

“Song of Thanksgiving”

Arnold B. Sherman

*Faith Bells*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

God of Grace forgive our ingratitude for the blessings we have received.

**Help us live the lives we proclaim.**

God of Peace forgive our impatience with the actions of our neighbor.

**Help us live the lives we proclaim.**

God of love forgive our intolerance toward those of other faiths or none.

**Help us live the lives we proclaim.**

God of mercy forgive our reluctance to offer a word of forgiveness.

**Help us live the lives we proclaim.**

God of hope accept our repentance as a sweet-smelling offering along with the service of our lives as we thankfully receive your forgiveness.

**Amen**

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church -- Ballwin, Missouri*

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,

**We confess that we are not awake for you.**

**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**

**We forget the least of our siblings.**

**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**

**We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.**

**Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN – NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD (ELW 840)



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878  
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

## You Are Holy

### *Du är helig*

1\*



*Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer*  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



*än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.*  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



*Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,*  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



*väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.*  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



*Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,*  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



*du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!*  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



*Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,*  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



*ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.*  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

\* *May be sung in canon.*

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling

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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

The LORD is giving you the land, and soon you will conquer it, settle down, <sup>2</sup> and plant crops. And when you begin harvesting each of your crops, the very first things you pick must be put in a basket. Take them to the place where the LORD your God chooses to be worshiped, <sup>3</sup> and tell the priest, “Long ago the LORD our God promised our ancestors that he would give us this land. And today, I thank him for keeping his promise and giving me a share of the land.”

<sup>4</sup> The priest will take the basket and set it in front of the LORD's altar. <sup>5</sup> Then, standing there in front of the place of worship, you must pray: My ancestor was homeless, an Aramean who went to live in Egypt. There were only a few in his family then, but they became great and powerful, a nation of many people.

<sup>6</sup> The Egyptians were cruel and had no pity on us. They mistreated our people and forced us into slavery. <sup>7</sup> We called out for help to you, the LORD God of our ancestors. You heard our cries; you knew we were in trouble and abused. <sup>8</sup> Then you terrified the Egyptians with your mighty miracles and rescued us from Egypt. <sup>9</sup> You brought us here and gave us this land rich with milk and honey.

<sup>10</sup> Now, LORD, I bring to you the best of the crops that you have given me. After you say these things, place the basket in front of the LORD's altar and bow down to worship him. <sup>11</sup> Then you and your family must celebrate by eating a meal at the place of worship to thank the LORD your God for giving you such a good harvest. And remember to invite the Levites and the foreigners who live in your town.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 100 (Read in Unison)

R = Refrain



En - ter God's gates with thanks-giv-ing.

**<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!**

**<sup>2</sup>Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.**

**<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;  
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. R**

**<sup>4</sup>Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;  
give thanks and bless God's holy name.**

**<sup>5</sup>Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from age to age. R**

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

<sup>6</sup>The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written, "God scattered abroad, and gives to the poor; God's righteousness endures forever."

<sup>10</sup>The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup>for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, <sup>14</sup>while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for such a indescribable gift!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 6:25-33

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup>"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet our God in heaven feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you — you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, our God in heaven knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**



# SERMON

*During the Hymn of the Day, you are invited to bring your 2024 pledges forward and place them in the Offering basket.*

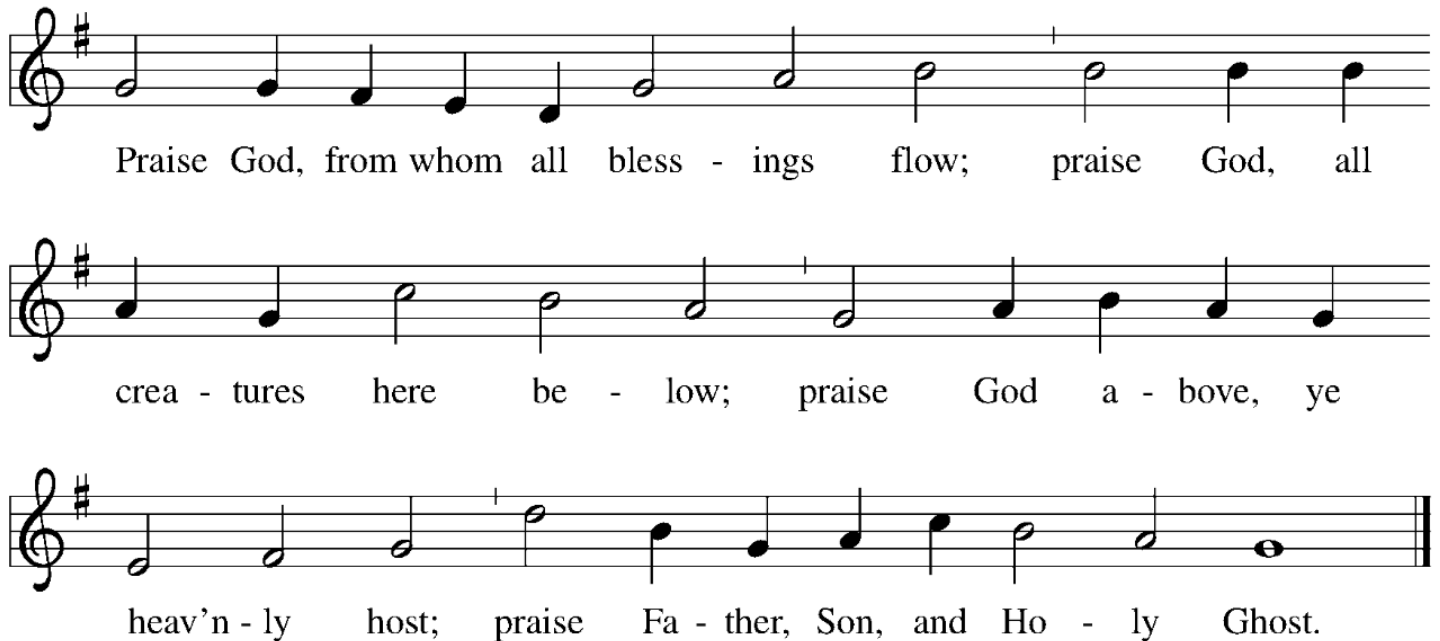
## **HYMN OF THE DAY – We Are an Offering (ELW 692)**

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957  
Music: Dwight Liles  
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING  
P.M

## HYMN OF THANKSGIVING (ELW 885)



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

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## PRAYER OVER PLEDGE CARDS

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving. These cards represent our sweat, they represent our lives, they represent our dreams. The pledges which we make on them are but tokens of the awesome gifts that have been given to us and they are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become, in this place. May they be the first fruits of all we have and not what we have left over, so that we may live out as closely as possible how you give to us. May we see them as our offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthy, filled with possibilities. May we hold this image in our hearts and minds so as we watch our offerings each week come to your table, we can see our very selves being part of this offering, it is us on the table, living sacrifices to you. **Amen.**

*The Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel - Diocesan Bishop, Diocese of Olympia*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - “We Belong to God”**

**We belong to God, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come. We follow Christ, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised again by God, and reigns over all Creation; and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world.**

**We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the Body of Christ, God's holy universal church. We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of resurrection and the reality of eternal life. In all things it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. Amen.**

*Unfolding Light is a daily reflection (weekdays) by Steve Garnaas-Holmes. You have my permission to use the resources here, as well as any of my daily reflections.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

...

God, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Craig Courtney

*Chancel Choir, Gwynne Kadrofske - Flute*

*Please stand if you are able.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin[g]dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin[g]dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

“We Gather Together”

arr. Thomas Keesecker

*Please stand if you are able.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG – AS SAINTS OF OLD (ELW 695)



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field  
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;  
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,  
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.  
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:  
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.  
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.  
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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## DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God”

arr. Paul Manz

Reader: Walter Kopf  
Lay Assistant: Brenda Kopf  
Ushers: McCracken/Milne  
Acolyte: Jasper Wawrzynski

Greeter(s): Marla Holle  
Altar Care: Jamie Royalty  
Nursery: Open, but not staffed  
Coffee Hour: Bob & Connie Nelson

### January - October 2023

Income	\$ 254,784
Expenses	\$ 277,303
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (22,519)

## WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

### November 5

Loose Cash	\$ 60.00
General Fund	\$ 1,780.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 200.00
Parish House	\$ 50.00
Youth: CHARGE Trip	\$ <u>170.00</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 2,260.00

### Vanco

General Operating	\$ 4,655.00
Building	\$ 125.00
Caring Committee	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00
Parish House	\$ <u>50.00</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 4,930.00

### November 12

Loose Cash	\$ 51.00
General Fund	\$ 2,060.00
Building Rental	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 1,393.00
Parish House	\$ <u>25.00</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 3,579.00

### Vanco

General Operating	\$ <u>220.00</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 220.00

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,799.00</b>
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,190.00</b>
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**POINSETTIA ORDER forms were emailed to the Congregation and are available on the table in the Narthex. If you plan to fill out the form at the church, be sure to remember your checkbook.**

**Orders are due Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**

**\* \* \* \* \***

## **Sunday, Nov. 19: Stewardship Sunday + Thanksgiving Sunday**

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am – **PLEDGE CARDS offered during Service**
- Worship Committee Meeting @ 11:00 am – LIBRARY
- Confirmation @ 11:30 – Fellowship Hall

You can view the Worship Service on our Facebook page (click the link below) <https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos/videos/>

## **Monday, Nov. 20:**

- Boy Scouts Meeting @ 7:00 pm – Old Fellowship Hall
- Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm – Fellowship Hall

## **Tuesday, Nov. 21:**

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call

## **Wednesday, Nov. 22:**

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am

## **Sunday, Nov. 26:**

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am - **Christ the King Sunday**

## Mark your calendars!!

The Christmas Pageant - put on by the Youth - will be on December 17th, during Worship Service. Following the Service, there will be coffee hour and cake!

\* \* \* \* \*

## TEACHERS NEEDED for SUNDAY SCHOOL – December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Please click the Sign-up Genius link, here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AA23A2FAC07-iwantto#/>

Youth 6th grade and up are welcome to come to Sunday School to meet in the Youth Room for snacks, games and discussion. Pam

\* \* \* \* \*

## MICRO PANTRY – NOVEMBER Challenge

A wonderful opportunity has presented itself to our Micro-Pantry. A generous, anonymous, donor has offered to match any donations up to \$1000 during November to the Micro Pantry Fund. If you would like to meet this challenge to help keep our Micro Pantries Food Budget funded, please make your check to Faith Lutheran with “Micro Pantry Challenge” on the Memo line.

## SINGING SINNERS SUNDAY

You are invited to join the Singing Sinners! We will rehearse together on the first Wednesday of the month, then sing during worship on the following Sunday. We head to Buddie’s after our rehearsal for fellowship time. Join us once - - or every month - - we’d love to see you!

DECEMBER: Rehearse on December 6; sing during worship on December 10

**See you then!**

- **FLC Calendar of Events**: All scheduled Sunday Services, church events, meetings, and facility use events are now posted on the FLC Website under About Us / Calendar. OR, you can click “Calendar” from the top right corner of the Home Page.

**Here is the direct link: [Faith Lutheran Church Calendar of Events](#).**

**Links to the Sunday Services (Recorded and Live), Tuesday Bible Studies (via Zoom), etc., are available within the individual calendar events.**

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